



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Sustainability Committee

Margarita Kruffy, Chair– Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Mike Gibaldi, Vice-Chair – Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Jason Koslowe, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner
Sara Kott, Member – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson
Santiago R. Tarditi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
Daniel Robles, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Jeremy Waks, Member – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

DATE: September 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for September 30, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Jeremy Waks, Margarita Kruffy, Mike Gibaldi, Daniel Robles, Sara Kott, Jason Koslowe

Absent: Santiago Tarditi

City Staff: Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Director; Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Manager; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; Bradford Kaine, Sanitation Director; Rodney Knowles, Green Space Division Director; Carlos Berriz, Fleet Division Director; Jenn Seoanes, Marketing Manager.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

a. Review of the July 29, 2021 Minutes – MOTION: Motion to approve the July 29, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Sara Kott.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

i. Leaf Blowers – Robert Selsam, Miami Beach United (MBU), presented the item. Mr. Selsam described the issues experienced from gas powered leaf blowers including pollution, noise levels, and public health and presented a list of cities where gasoline powered leaf blowers have been banned. Rodney Knowles, Greenspace Management, stated that the City's landscape maintenance contracts and Greenspace Division only use battery leaf blowers; with the exception of a small inventory of gasoline powered leaf blowers that are kept for emergency situations. Bradford Kaine, Sanitation Director, explained that the Sanitation Department is in the process of transitioning to battery leaf blowers and the conversion should be completed by the end of the year. **MOTION:** The Resident Sustainability Committee recommends that the Miami Beach Commission, consistent with actions taken by hundreds of cities and counties nationwide and consistent with City's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pass an Ordinance banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers throughout the City of Miami Beach. Gas powered leaf blowers have been shown to be highly detrimental to the environment. In addition, there are adverse health effects associated with the exhaust gas and noise. Electric leaf blowers would still be allowed if the device produces no more than 65 db. A grace period of one year before imposing penalties on businesses or residents is suggested. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Sara Kott.

ii. Monument Island Funding – Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Manager, presented the item. She stated there was a donation of \$25,000 awarded for Monument Island improvements. She requested ideas from the Committee on what the funds could be used for to improve Monument Island. Ideas discussed were the creation of an animal or bird sanctuary, planting butterfly gardens, the removal of trash receptacles and motorized vehicle use on the island, and other educational opportunities.

iii. Citywide Garbage Can Placement – Ms. Pineda presented the item. Bradford Kaine, Sanitation Director, gave an overview of the garbage can placement and operations around the city. He stated that some of the difficulties faced include events and site-specific locations needing an increased number of containers, illegal dumping and compliance issues. Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment and Sustainability Director, explained that this item is a referral from the commission to begin discussions at the Sustainability Committee.

b. Old Business

i. EV in Fleet – Alyssia Berthoumieux presented the item. Carlos Berriz, Fleet Division Director, explained the city's current actions toward emissions reductions and fleet electrification. He explained that the transition to an electric fleet must contain hybrid vehicles for emergency use when the electric grid is down or out of service. Mr. Berriz stated that Fleet is looking at options that can fulfill the city's responsibilities but also maximize EV transition potential.

ii. Beverage Sponsor Contract – Jenn Seoanes, Marketing Manager, presented the item. Greg Carney, Spectra Partnerships, explained the process for selecting a beverage sponsor. He stated that the beverage sponsor contract item was deferred to the December commission meeting. Mr. Carney explained that the three vendors interested are Coca Cola, Pepsi, and Red Bull, and Spectra will give their recommendation at the December commission meeting. Once the Commission decides on a vendor, the negotiations will begin. Margarita Kruffy, Committee chair, asked how the beverage sponsor will be selected. Ms. Seoanes explained that the revenue is an important consideration since it supports the city's programs and that other considerations include sustainable initiatives to mitigate plastic use, givebacks for residents, price of products and service components. Mr. Gibaldi asked how long the contract is. Mr. Carney said it can be up to 10 years. **MOTION:** To support the City of Miami Beach's commitment to being a plastic free city, the Sustainability Committee recommends that the new beverage sponsor contract require the awarded vendor(s) to be completely plastic free. In addition to its low rate of recyclability and effects on wildlife, plastic is made of fossil fuels and negatively impacts the environment through the creation of greenhouse gases emissions in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂). An overwhelming majority of items found during cleanups are plastics. This past International Coastal Cleanup Day showcased that 83% items collected in Miami-Dade County were single-use plastics - demonstrating the consistent presence and lack of biodegradability of this material. Motion made by Sara Kott, seconded by Margarita Kruffy.

c. Updates

i. G.O. Bond Oversight Committee – Jason Koslowe, member, gave an update. He stated that the G.O. Bond Oversight Committee decided to make their meetings for every other month instead of every month.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

4. Next Meeting – October 28, 2021